

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 13, 16, and 24 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention and not to limit their scope in any way.

Claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-17, 20-25, and 28-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chandrasekaran. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner and the undersigned attorney held a telephone interview on October 20, 2005, during which they discussed claim 1. The substance of this interview is set forth herein.

As amended, claim 1 recites:

A method of handling messages received at a messaging system server, the method comprising:
storing, in non-persistent storage, messages received from at least one client;
removing delivered messages from the non-persistent storage; and
saving to persistent storage, after a delay interval has elapsed, content of at least one of the messages stored in the non-persistent storage.

In particular, claim 1 recites "saving to persistent storage, after a delay interval has elapsed, content of at least one of the messages stored in the non-persistent storage" (emphasis added).

Chandrasekaran does not disclose, teach, or suggest this claimed element.

Chandrasekaran discusses a system for propagating (transmitting) a message from a source site 200 to a destination site 202 (abstract). The source site tracks messages using a propagation queue 204 and a propagation table 212 (7:61-63; FIG. 2A). The propagation queue, which is in volatile memory, stores information about a message that is awaiting transmission (7:63-65). The propagation table, which is in non-volatile memory, stores a history of the messages that have been transmitted (8:66-9:2).

In Chandrasekaran, the message data 226 corresponds to the claimed element "content of at least one of the messages," volatile memory corresponds to the claimed element "non-persistent storage," and non-volatile memory 240 corresponds to the claimed element "persistent storage." The message data is stored in volatile memory (the propagation queue) and not in non-volatile memory (the propagation table), as can be seen in FIG. 2A. Specifically, the non-volatile memory (propagation table) stores a message's propagation sequence number, UID, and propagation state, none of which include the message data 226 (7:30-32).

(The sequence numbers identify an ordering that indicates when a particular message is propagated from the source site to the destination site relative to other propagated messages (8:62-65). The UID is a unique identifier that uniquely identifies one message from another message that is to be propagated from the source site to the destination site (7:6-9). The state describes the state of propagation and can be "prepared" (meaning that the message has been propagated to the destination site but that a commit message has not yet been sent to the destination site) or "committed" (meaning that the changes have been committed at the destination site) (9:14-17; 11:32-36).)

Since the message data 226 is not stored in nonvolatile memory, Chandrasekaran does not anticipate the claimed element "saving to persistent storage, after a delay interval has elapsed, content of at least one of the messages stored in the non-persistent storage." Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Chandrasekaran. Independent claims 13, 16, and 24 also recite similar features and are also patentable over Chandrasekaran for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 4-6, 13-15, 18-19, and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chandrasekaran in view of Stein. Applicants respectfully traverse. These claims depend from their respective base claims, which are patentable over Chandrasekaran. In

addition, these claims recite other features not included in their respective base claims. Thus, claims 4-6, 13-15, 18-19, and 26-27 are patentable over Chandrasekaran in view of Stein. Additionally, for the record, Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertions concerning the disclosure of Stein and the motivation to combine Chandrasekaran and Stein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now allowable over the cited art of record and request that the Examiner allow this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLIAM CULLEN, ET AL.

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By: Sabra-Anne R. Truesdale
Sabra-Anne R. Truesdale, Reg. No. 55,687
Attorney for Applicants
Fenwick & West LLP
Silicon Valley Center
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Tel.: (650) 335-7187
Fax.: (650) 938-5200